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Carnforth Urban District Council

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1951.

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CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1951.

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To the Chairman and Members of the

CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1951 on the Health and Sanitary conditions in your District.

The Report includes that of your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector so far as his activities relate to Health and Sanitary matters.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. A. TOMB,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical:

JAMES A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Others:

F. O. WATERHOUSE, Sanitary Inspector.
(part time).

*(Information relating to the Area and the circumstances of
the year).*

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	1,504 Acres
Population (Census 1931), 3,139; 1951	3,380
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1951 according to Rate Book	1,095
Rateable Value	£19,570
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£77

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.

The social conditions are very satisfactory. The inhabitants are Railway and Rural workers.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		TOTAL	M	F	
Live Births	Legitimate	40	20	20	Birth Rate per 1,000 of
	Illegitimate	4	1	3	the estimated resident
	Total	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	population 13.0
Still Births	Nil				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births Nil
Deaths	42	20	22		Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population..... 12.4
Deaths from Puerperal causes:—					
Puerperal Sepsis					Nil
Other Puerperal Causes					Nil
Total					Nil
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age					—
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births					—
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births					—
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births					—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					9
,, „ Measles (all ages)					—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)					—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1951.

Age Periods. Years	New Cases				Deaths (The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar General)			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1								
1—5								
5—10								
10—15								
15—20	1							
20—25								
25—35				2				
35—45								
45—55	2							
55—65	1							
65 & over								
Totals	4		2				Nil	Nil
	4		2		Nil		Nil	

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	MALE	FEMALE
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	—
Other malignant neoplasms	2	5
Vascular lesions, nervous system	1	5
Coronary disease—angina	6	—
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	1
Other Heart disease	2	4
Other circulatory disease	2	—
Bronchitis	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Nephritis	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	7
Total.....	20	22

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING
THE YEAR 1951.**

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.								HOSPITAL.							
	Total Cases All Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	Total Deaths	Total Cases Removed to Hospital from the District	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District
Scarlet Fever	9	....	1	....	1	....	4	1	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
Whooping Cough ...	7	1	1	1	....	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Paratyphoid Fever...	2	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	2	....
Measles	88	1	19	33	32	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total..	106	221	135	40	1	3	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....					

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Under the National Health Service arrangements for diphtheria immunisation are the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council acting as the local Health Authority

Under the present system children can be immunised either by their own family doctor or at clinics conducted by the Divisional Medical Officer of the local Health Division and his staff.

Records of immunisation are completed by the General Practitioner in respect of children whom he has immunised and forwarded to the Divisional Health Office.

Records of immunisation carried out at the clinics are completed by the Divisional Medical Officer's staff.

The following table shows the number of children immunised in Carnforth Urban District up to December 31st, 1951.

I should point out that up to July 5th, 1948, many parents had their children immunised by their own private Practitioner and of this number we have no accurate records.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children (under 15 years) who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1951.

Age at 31st December, 1951. i.e. born in year.	under 1 1951	1-2 1950	2-3 1949	3-4 1948	4-5 1947	5-9 1942- 46	10-14 1937- 41	Total under 15
Number immunised.	25	38	40	27	58	206	186	580
Estimated Mid-Year Child population 1951.	Children under 5 years					Children 5-14 years		Children under 15 years
	280					416	696	
Percentage of Child Population in age groups in an immunised state	67.14%					94.23%	81.61 %	

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

All ambulance services are provided by the Divisional Health Committee of the Lancashire County Council, administered from the Divisional Health Office, Victoria House, Regent Street, Lancaster.

NURSING FACILITIES.

District Nursing Services and Midwifery Services are provided by the Divisional Health Committee of the Lancashire County Council, administered from the Divisional Health Office, Victoria House, Regent Street, Lancaster.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

This service is provided by the Lancashire County Council

SCHOOL HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

The Lancashire County Council have provided a School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre at 21, Market Street, Carnforth.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage of the whole of the urban district is by gravity, the sewers taking both foul and storm water drainage. The area is drained by 3 separate outfall sewers to different plants.

The main portion of the town, which includes the area which has been used for post-war housing expansion, is sewered to a tank alongside the River Keer (a tidal stream) and after settling in this tank the effluent is subject to discharge on ebb tide. This outfall sewer of 15" diameter has been found over a considerable length to be very heavily silted up, with its flow impeded and incapable of dealing adequately with the normal dry weather flow, but during the year successful operations have been carried out in the scraping of it with the result that it has been restored to its fullest potentialities, and should remain so for a considerable time.

Two other sewage disposal plants deal with the remaining portion of the district (the Crag Bank area), each purifying the sewage by sedimentation and filtration and discharging the effluent into adjacent streams. Samples taken in each case show the effluent to be quite satisfactory. At the larger of these two plants improvements have been effected during the year to deal with the sludge on the drying bed and an enlargement of the existing tank or an additional sludge drying bed seems desirable for this purpose.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

All the houses within the Council's sewerage system are drained by the water carriage system and all have fresh water closets with the exception of 45 premises which have waste water closets. The remaining houses (27) except for a few with septic tank drainage have privy middens and there are no pail closets. The conversion of these privy middens into water closets would require private sewage disposal plants. A notable feature of the area is that of almost every house having its own separate drain and water closet.

SCAVENGING.

The Council collects domestic refuse and where requested trade refuse also, a charge for the latter being made in accordance with the Public Health Act 1936. In a few cases, of outlying farms, arrangements are made privately for the disposal of refuse. For many years the refuse from the area has been disposed of by tipping on to a waste piece of land in Kellet Road, close to the Council's housing site. The proximity of this tip to the rapidly expanding housing area has compelled the Council to find other means of disposal and agreement has been reached with the Lancaster Rural District Council for the joint use of their tip at Cote Stones, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town. From the point of view of the Urban District this is an excellent arrangement.

There are no dry ashpits and with the exception of the 27 privy middens all refuse is placed in containers none of which are in joint use.

Up to the middle of July, 1951, the Council used a horse drawn vehicle for refuse collection and it was impossible to provide a weekly collection to the whole of the area. It was anticipated that the motor vehicle purchased during the year for this purpose would improve the system and the frequency of collection to certain areas but it is proving difficult to keep pace with the constantly increasing expansion of collection from the housing estate and an augmented force or an additional vehicle must be contemplated in the near future.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

Number of premises visited, 60.

Defects or Nuisances: Number discovered, 52, number abated, 50

Number of Notices served (informal), 52.

Statutory, Nil.

Legal proceedings, Nil.

FOOD.

MEAT:

All slaughtering of animals for human consumption in this area is carried out at the City of Lancaster abattoir.

MILK:

All milk sold by retail within the area is sampled by a joint arrangement and the results of samples so taken during the year are as follows:—

(i) Tuberculosis-biological tests.

No of samples taken	39
Results positive	0
Results negative	38
No result.	1

(ii) Bacteriological examinations.

No. of samples taken	72
Satisfactory	64
Unsatisfactory	8

(iii) Methylene Blue Reductase Test.

No. of samples taken	20
Satisfactory	18
Unsatisfactory	2

ICE CREAM:

There are no premises in the district manufacturing ice cream by the heat treatment process and all premises registered for the sale of ice cream purvey the prepacked proprietary varieties.

FOOD PREMISES AND UNSOUND FOOD:

No instances have been found of unsatisfactory conditions of premises dealing with the handling, storage or preparation for sale of food for human consumption. Small amounts of food, principally tinned foods, have been surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS:

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning within the urban district notified during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

These are 21 in number and all are of a small type. No conditions have been found calling for action and no reports received of non-compliance with the Act.

RODENT CONTROL.

The area continues to remain clear of serious infestations of rats and mice, due to the inspections of the rat catcher. The test baiting of the sewers required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries showed them to be free of infestation. The refuse tip, now discontinued, is clear and the small and sporadic infestations occurring at the sewage disposal plants are easily and quickly brought under control. In practically all cases of any infestation occurring on private property, extermination is carried out promptly by the occupier, without recourse to other action.

HOUSING:

The predominating need in the area is for the continued provision of new houses. During the year the Council completed 42 houses on their estate in Kellet Road, which has grown from 52 in 1927 to a total of 198 at the end of 1951. Land for further housing is owned by the Council which can accommodate more than 200 dwellings. The size of the waiting list of applicants calls for the allocation of increasing numbers of houses to meet these needs and existing progress indicates that it will still take some years before adequate provision for separate families is offered.

Owing to the system of granting of licences for private building only 3 houses were erected during 1951 by private enterprise. The demand for private building in the area is, however, low and at the present time, at any rate, the outstanding desire is for the renting of Council-built houses.

Whilst labour and materials are concentrated on new housing, little is being done to the existing properties, either in the way of repairs or by modernisation, though fortunately they are on the whole of good structural standard. Many of them, however, although provided with individually adequate water supply and water closets lack the much desired convenience of hot water and baths.

There have been very few instances of these amenities being provided and not a single application has been received for a reconditioning grant under the Housing Act 1949.

The housing of the urban district is made up as follows:—

350 detached or semi-detached, modern, of good standard and generally sound.

459 cottage type

286 parlour type

Most of the latter two groups were built in rows about 1880 and are generally structurally sound. They are of the types which could be much improved by the provision of the amenities referred to. There are no back to back houses in the area. Although most of the old property is of high density from a planning aspect, there are no areas which are scheduled as unhealthy. When the housing demand is satisfied, however, a very small number of houses ought to be dealt with as unfit for habitation and the occupants rehoused.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is obtained from the Carnforth Water Company's Reservoir, situate at Withneths, capacity 70,000,000 gallons. The supply is constant.

The nature of the gathering ground is partly of a peaty and partly of a sandstone nature and therefore is good for domestic purposes.

Owing to the position of the gathering ground the water is liable to animal pollution.

The Water Company have provided an effective and modern chlorination and filtration plant.

Arrangements for the bacteriological analysis of water are made by the Water Company, in addition to which the Local Authority takes samples of the treated water every three months for bacteriological analysis. The reports thereon are consistently satisfactory.

The outlying farms and cottages are dependent upon springs and wells.

No. of houses using Water Company's piped supply direct to houses	1,082
No. of houses using Rain and Well water	13

